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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/629,008	07/29/2003	Adam Jude Ahne	2002-0630.01	7331

21972 7590 06/14/2006

LEXMARK INTERNATIONAL, INC.
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EXAMINER

LE, DON P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2819

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

21

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/629,008	AHNE, ADAM JUDE	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Don P. Le	2819	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-23 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24, 28-30, 34 and 35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 25-27, 31-33 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Election/Restrictions

1. This application contains claims 1-23 drawn to an invention nonelected. Request that applicant cancel the nonelected claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 24 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chang (US 5,598,110).

4. With respect to claim 24, figures 1-7 of Chang teach a supply item (the circuit of figure 3A is supplying a signal to other circuit) comprising:

a circuit (7') including a tri-state input port (8, figure 3A) and said supply item having at least three modes of operation (HIGH IMPEDANCE, HIGH and LOW), wherein a particular mode of operation of said at least three modes of operation is selected based on a signal level of a tri-state input signal supplied to said tri-state input port.

5. With respect to claim 30, figures 1-7 of Chang teach 30. An apparatus, comprising:

a controller (circuit supplying signal to 8, figure 3A); and

a supply item (figure 3A) including a circuit having a tri-state input port (8) coupled to said controller, said supply item having at least three modes of operation (HIGH IMPEDANCE, HIGH, LOW), wherein a particular mode of operation of said at least three modes of operation is

selected based on a signal level of a tri-state input signal supplied to said tri-state input port by said controller.

The term “an imaging apparatus” in the preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67, 190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 28, 29 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang (US 5,598,110) in view of Tsuruoka (US 6,371,588). The apparatus of Chang does not teach printhead cartridge as claimed by applicant. Figures 2 and 5 of Tsuruoka teach a tristate driver circuit having three modes of operation (TRISTATE, HIGH and LOW) as part of a printhead cartridge for the purpose of controlling the printhead cartridge. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of art at the time the invention was made to have used the supply item of Chang in the apparatus of Tsuruoka for the purpose of controlling the printhead cartridge.

Allowable Subject Matter

Art Unit: 2819

8. Claims 25-27 and 31-33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claims 25 and 31, in addition to other elements in the respective claim, the prior art does not teach an apparatus having a D Flip-flop having a D input, a clock input and a Q output, said D input being tied HIGH, said clock input being coupled to a tristate input port, and said Q output being coupled to a first output port.

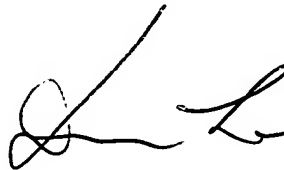
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Don P. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-1806. The examiner can normally be reached on 7AM - 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Barnie Rexford can be reached on 571-272-1812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

6/6/2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Le', with a stylized, cursive script.

DON LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER